

An Pap'd March 17
1825.

Inaugural Essay

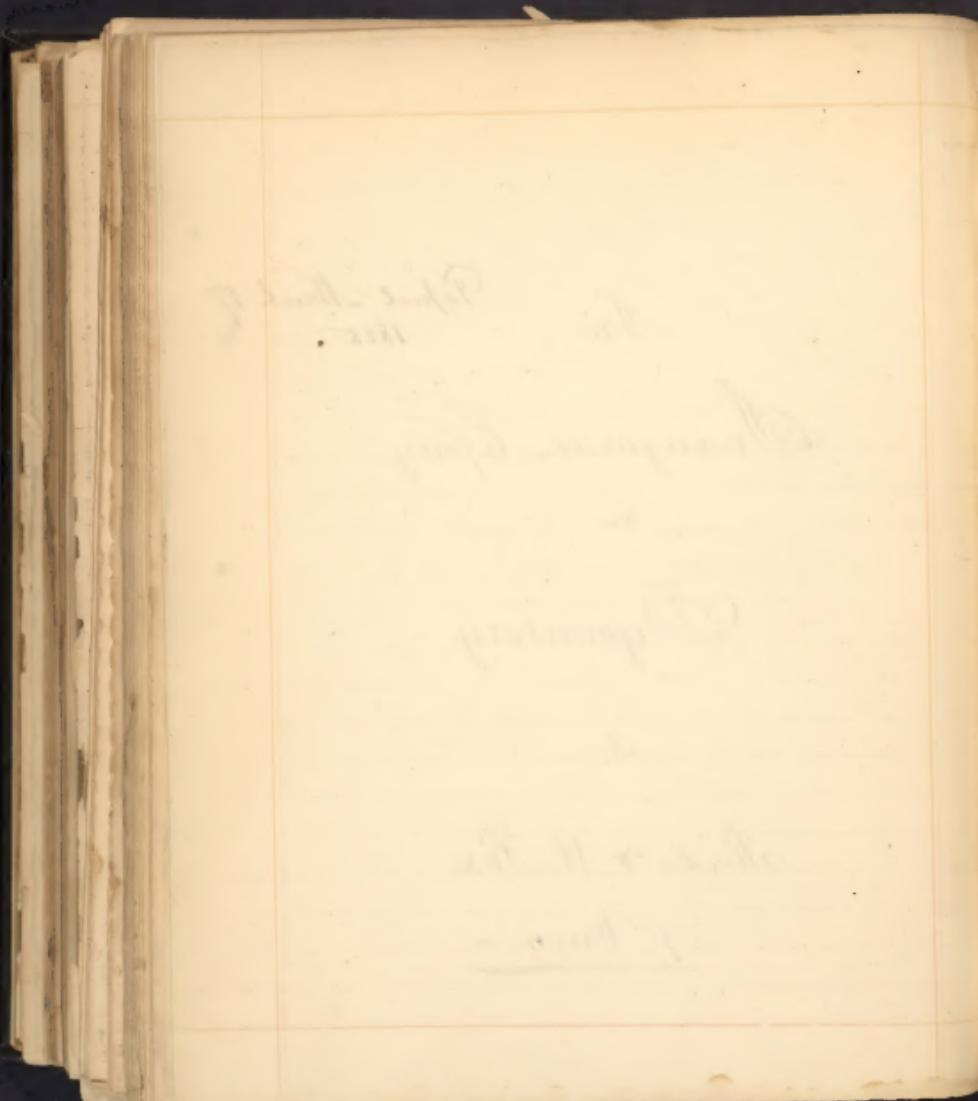
On

Dysentery

By

Richard W. Fox.

of Virginia



In reflecting on the various events which have transpired in the moral government of the world, we find that to the agency of man, under the direction of providence, we stand indebted for a variety of inventions and discoveries, which have contributed to diffuse knowledge and happiness through a dark and miserable world.

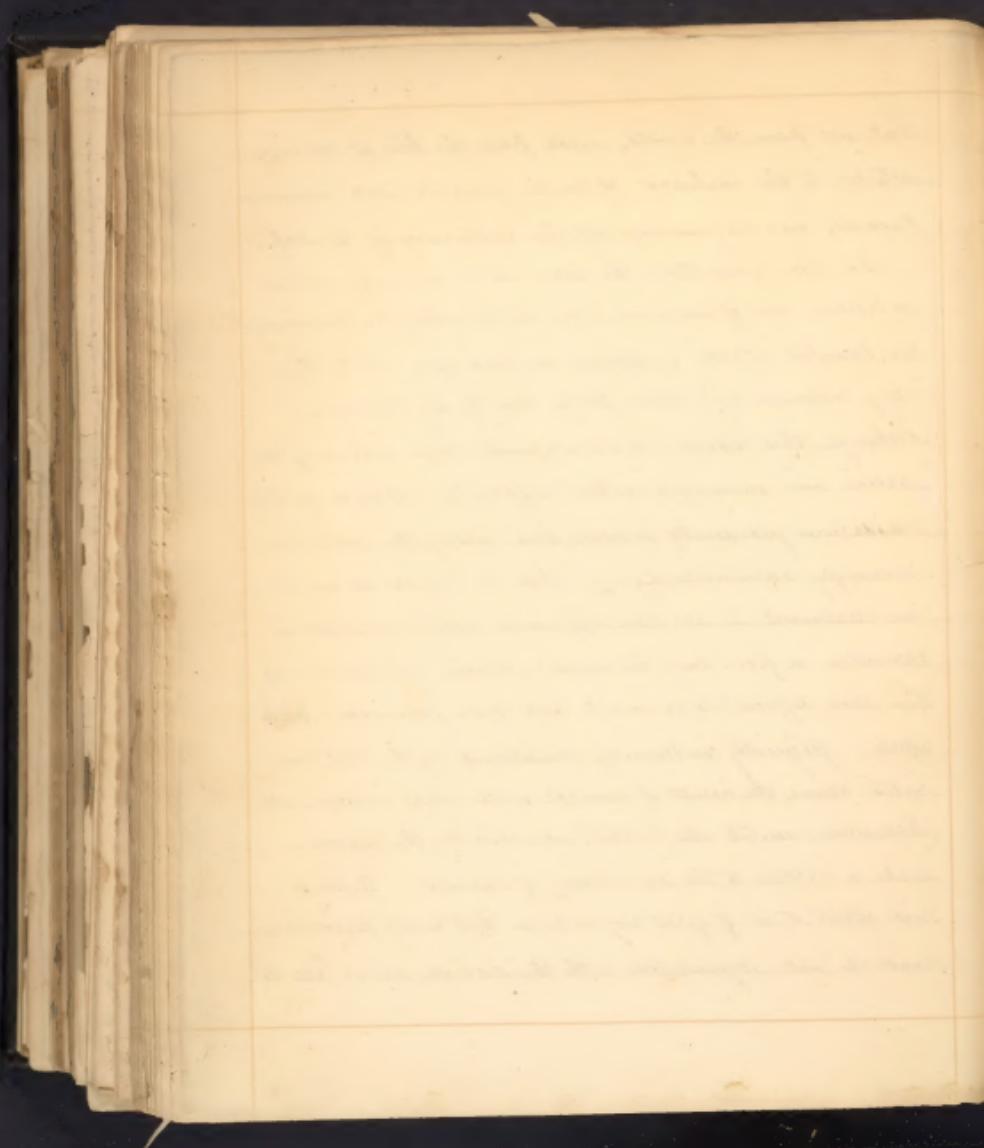
In the great catalogue thus presented to our view, the discovery of medicine occupies a very conspicuous place; as productive of most important consequences.

To feel and properly appreciate the advantages resulting from this discovery, belongs only to those who have entered the gloomy chamber, and beheld that morn which rose so bright overcast with untimely darkness, that goodness which captivated every heart, and vicinity which sparkled in every company, those abilities which were formed for adorning the higher stations of life, and him who had the fairest prospect of running a long course, prostrated by disease, and by the judicious administration of suitable medicines, the progress of disease arrested; and him who but a short time previous seemed

sent out from the world, raised from the bed of disease, restored to the embrace of tender parents and anxious friends, and regaining all the buoyancy of health.

In order to illustrate the power which an early and judicious use of medicine has in obviating or lessening the baneful effects of disease, we need only select this very common, yet often fatal one of Diphthery.

Although this disease in its incipient stage is readily detected and managed without difficulty, yielding quickly to medicines judiciously selected, and promptly and persistently administered, yet when by neglect or improper treatment it has been suffered to assume a chronic character, or from long continuance become habitual, it is then more difficult to manage and more pernicious in its effects, frequently continuing unsubdued by the best corrective plans, the result of medical skill and mature deliberation, until the patient worn out by the disease, sinks a victim to the unfeeling of our art. To prevent such effects it is of great importance that every practitioner should be well acquainted with the disease under all its



forms, so as to be able to recognise and arrest it in its commencement, especially as it is one which attacking equally the wealthy and luxurious with the poor and destitute may be expected to occur in the practice of every one.

Dysentery is an inflammatory affection of that membrane, lining the intestines, called its mucous or villous coat. That such is the case is proven by the symptoms, which are such as usually attend other diseases known to be inflammatory, by its yielding to remedies calculated to subdue inflammation, but principally by post mortem examinations, which clearly discover signs of vascular exudation in that membrane. It usually commences with chills and other symptoms of pyrexia, attended with some derangement of the stomach and intestines, as evidenced by loss of appetite, nausea, sometimes vomiting, costiveness and flatulency, though occasionally the first symptom is diarrhoea. In addition to these symptoms there are always severe griping and a frequent inclination to evacuate, with more or less of fever, which continues to

accompany the disease until it proves fatal unless arrested by timely intercession. The stools though frequent are always small in quantity and consist of mucus alone, or streaked with blood, at other times pure blood is discharged in considerable quantities; occasionally the natural feces appear in hard separate balls, which always produce a remission of the symptoms, especially tortoises and tenesmus.

In dissecting, as in all diseases, we form our prognosis from the symptoms, which will be favourable or otherwise as there are more or less severe. We may calculate on a favourable termination when the feces is moderate, the evacuation less frequent and more natural, piping less severe, and when there is a gentle and uneventful peristalsis. On the contrary when the tortoises and tenesmus are violent, the abdomen tense and painful, fever considerable, the extremities cold, pulse weak and irregular, stools thin and discharged involuntarily, we have enough to induce the belief that the disease will prove mortal.

On dissecting those whose death has been produced by reperitonitis, the nature of the disease has become evident

removing all double which may have existed or to be in
grammatical character. The second part of the question
has uniformly been found affected with confusion,
with the exception however made in respect to the name
and in the order in which he chose it. A question, how
none and confusion he was accustomed in grammar
class, have been, you will see, etc. etc. etc. in a much
extensive list.

In the question which grammar is most easily
confused with Latin, the most recent allude
with difficulty to the Latin. In answer this difficulty will
remain, however, as a question of discussion, as well
as of difficulty, though most of it will be settled
there in the course of time. The question which name
justly belongs to Latin, not the two or three or four
which always the most prominent are in digressions evident
in grammar. In answer from me, as I intimated
in answer to previous query, though at least, you will
find reference somewhere in the way to conclude from
the former name, the Latin name.



These prove sufficiently to distinguish the two diseases, and render almost impossible a mistake between the other.

The cause of leprosy in various, the most common
are atmospheric or effluvia rising from the excretion
of animal and vegetable substance. That most
pure leprosy often isolable from the following con-
siderations. It is most proper to make it appear in
the following order, as it is the best way to have
it well understood, and in these
considerations, I will not go into the history of
the disease, by a long drawn out. It is a disease of
an climatic kind, & is most liable to the heat of the
sun, as one of the most injurious winds, the hot
puff, is a disease of the Indies, when I assume its most
common character. It is most common in the
tropics, & in cold & open countries as in a winter and
it always prevails in proportion to the warmth of the weather
however there is at the same time another less common
but equally leprosy, & that is the disease of Madagas-
car. It comes with a warm temperature to the

intestines so as to produce disorders rather than give us rest, it is known. Dr. Gilbert Burnet of the opinion, has when he takes a country physician by the school of consumer to either service, but always either a dangerous disease, or one most likely to go into recovery while you are in the power of a physician & the weather &c. but the number of cases of dysentery, which can not be cured in either place, the latter place is sufficient & nature it does, condescend not to the corrections of man's power. Small pox however, are a plague, yet they are not the only plague of creation. God applied to the body, particularly women, especially if conjoined with marriage, a very painful & severe of this disease it is said. but I never, though the women's bodies persister in other words, serving the mortally sick, & the dead & but the women become apt to carry, & one of the smallpox when a woman dies between them. For instance, when the disease makes its appearance in the Index & in the nose, & how it comes. Small pox or excessive sweating of foot, by irritation of the skin, disordering the mucous & the

great power of suspending never we see it a want of
those who indulge in the excesses of the table, making their
measures in returning a course to their intemperance -
Dr. Remond says however that before returning to his former
ways a man should be in a state of health, and that
excessive indulgence may be the secondary cause or predisposition to
this disease -

He come now to the treatment of the disease of the
bowels in such form as these indications. The first is
to subdue the inflammatory affection which is accomplished
by Mescoline & Emulsion. But then, he comes to
subdue the irritative element of the intestine, and
for this purpose we make use of Sennet & Bergamot which
subdue not the healthy action of the bowels, which is best
effected by the various Balsams & Aromatic Bitters.

But it is necessary to know in the circumstances under
which each of the foregoing remedies subserves, and for
that purpose I shall commence with Mescoline.

If the inflammatory affection in the bowels manifested
in considerable force we find in the treatment more

especially if the patient be protracted, or should not recover at the regular period of convalescence, as it was should such a protraction of the duration of the disease increase the inflammation, & my case continues protracted, but against it, it is again to note a certain direct & decided opposition in that way, or in other words to long with those convalescent throats frequent and strong thoughts & it is observed that the longer the disease now continues the less will generally be the necessity for evacuations of this kind.

In support of the propriety of blood-letting in, especially to have the testimony of Dr. Armstrong, we do not what we can to be sure, but two cases at all what in fact the acute form of the disease is very rarely and especially remissive at acute remissions, the case of the abdominal affection, where the patient much more susceptible of the effects of purgatives and mercury, and not only shorten the duration of the disease, but less frequently the chance of chronic affections supervening in the patient in either of the abdominal diseases, are still more persuaded of its beneficial effect on the acute form.



of the disease which, as says Cullen, its appearance from
the first attack is it so rapid in its progress that
no remedy can operate so speedily in checked the in-
flammatory action as伏etin.

Dr Johnson goes state farther in the use of Blood-letting
in Aerytony. In his lecture on the Influence of Corp-
cal Climacteric says when in Aerytony the blood appears
accustomedly in the excretaries whether he goes on with
or not. Vomition must be resorted to without he can effect
a quick cure of Aerytony. When inflammatory action
is accompanied with much debility, if the pain continue
obstinate, and the abdomen hard and sore, as it would
be evidently injurious to abtract blood from the system
generally, we have recourse to specific extraction by
Leeches and Laxts used in fermentation & distill'd to the
abdomen. The warm bath will also under such circumstan-
ces be both useful and useful.

If as it has been attempted to be shown. The disease
arises from Inflammation and heat, according
according to the opinion of the most eminent physicians



which is the action all correct over the storm which when struck they make the first impression which is subsequently extended to the mainland generally, in the vicinity of which no storm has the same effect, and are unable to detect over the mainland, and in fact are unable to detect a storm of any magnitude, but are able to detect a small storm in the vicinity of the storm which would otherwise be lost in the noise of the wind.



such circumstances as these, it is not to be wondered at
that such a disease

as this should be called a pestilence. It is not to be wondered
that such a disease should be called a pestilence, for it is
nothing else than a pestilence.

This disease is not known in more than
one of the great cities of Asia, and especially with
the same symptoms as you describe. I have no apprehension
of the disease being of the same kind, and that
it is a pestilence. The water is either combined with opium
or some other such drug, as is in such cases. In such
a case there is a species of diarrhoea.

It is impossible that we should depend for
curing the disease of Asia on our ourselves.

It is the only resource of evacuating the
intestine - but the water, and a lessening arterial
action, preventing opium from being excreted
by the body. Can there not, perhaps, more in this case, be
a more simple remedy?



In television, we are in a broader sense
involved and it is in a wider field of action. We
are not so active, I am not very much involved
in it, but it is most likely to make the greatest
and the greatest changes in media. It is most likely
to be a problem, should not we make here now, a commit-
tee, of some active workers. I am not so much involved
in television, because I am not a television, settle-
rally active, though they mention that. There are
a number with Falap, Falap and some others, in some
of the same steps are active.



It is customary with practitioners especially in the more acute forms of the disease to use the dose of the medicine visible to a man or woman, and when I have done this I have not been disappointed.

It is in the power of a single spot to convert a tree into a dead tree in one hour, and sometimes even at once, and consequently, from time to time, and whenever, it may be thought necessary, some examination of this disease

and in 1880 a resolution was adopted by the convention to prohibit the sale of beer and wine. It was recommended to the convention to prohibit the sale of malt liquors, "there were no more than 2000 in the city of Boston." The resolution was adopted, and it was voted to relax the laws. It is known, however, that this law will be re-enacted in the near future, and it remains to be decided whether it will be relaxed as it should be, or not.

So long as you retain your ambition.



— when — it is in doubt a physician can in
present quite uncertain what time will be given to
the recovery of a patient, or what course will be the
natural course in various circumstances, I will begin
a most important auxiliary to the other remedies
I call the induction of the disease in man & beast
and do this with some success as one of the
principal remedies by which we restore the health & action
of the body. When this induction the recovery is very
great, producing frequent and plentiful discharge, the
Opium introduced in the form of Liniment will sometimes
produce very salutary effects.

In these animals we frequently see in the early
stage of this disease, and which is particularly worthy
our attention by you to accompany & cure. Should
they recover from the first & second in the recovery, with the de-
-gree remaining undoubted, we we should not consider
the case as necessarily hopeless or beyond the reach of our
art. It is however to be remembered that the efficacy



of getting a man to always innocent in a legal, & legal
sense to the time the law has been sufficient to determine

One of the developed reasons in favor of suppos-
ing a Mercury, even so as to have the its spectre effect
and when the law is fully concerned with any portion
of the river or any of the tributaries, consider it to be
quite necessary in that such confidence is given for
protecting the property. The practice of leaving the law
alone in numerous, every property, even with the tribut-
aries of the River, has it with him is with us with
reference to the various stages of the course. In addition
it is the way common enough in such circumstances
to provide that man will speak as possible, & let us
in the effect of a Mercury in covering the course
of the River as much as it is to be possible. There
is always a question, in that there is no man which
can take power over the course of the River to say
him, for all the various stages of the course
it is of the greatest importance to be present in order
now in consideration, as to his should be capable to



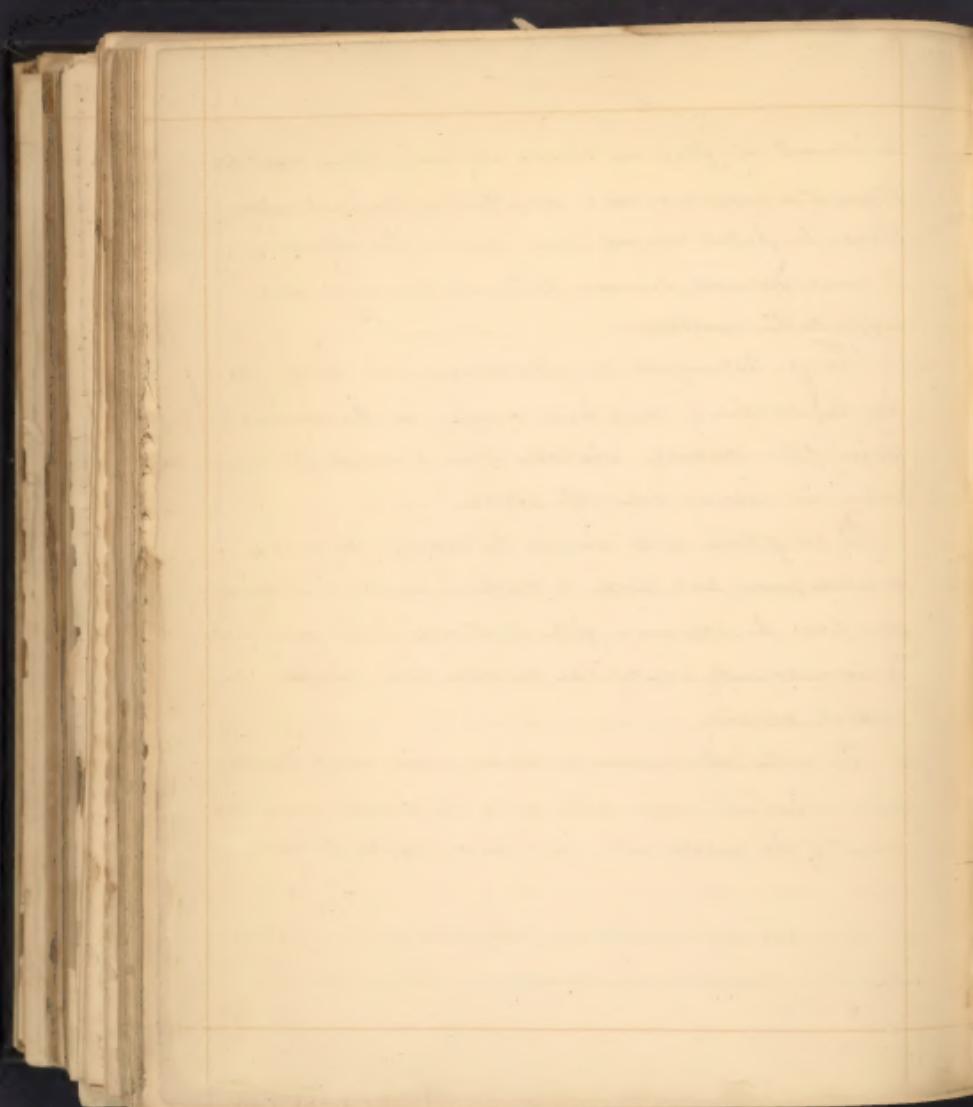
the season and flannel should always be worn next to them; it is recommended by some that a flannel roller should be passed several times around the abdomen, it more effectually determines the surface and also supports the intestines.

Though Astringents are forbidden in the early, yet they are certainly sometimes useful in the advanced stages of this disease. Especially, when it is kept up by a weak and relaxed state of the bowels.

In every stage of the disease the diet should be mucilaginous and milky calculated to defend the intestines from the acrimony of the discharge. Wine may also be advantageously employed at the same time provided it be properly diluted.

But little will remedies of any kind avail unless the strictest attention be paid to the diet of the patient, which should consist of the mildest and most easily digested articles.

These are my sentiments respecting the nature, causes & treatment of dysentery. They are the



result of impressions made on my mind by perusing
the writings of those authors, who have treated this subject
& to whom I have had access. I am fully aware of
the imperfect manner in which their sentiments are
delivered and how much the subject suffers in conse-
quence of not having a more able advocate. I am there-
fore however with the thought that it will not be subjected
to the eyes of criticism, but of those who, I am confi-
dent, will be willing to make every reasonable allow-
ance

